

there is physical aggression, they are not a lethal weapon and officers are trained to focus on the well being of the individual on whom the taser has been used. Tasers are used to stabilize situations.

- Chairman Nye recognized Senator Forrester who asked Chief Cunningham if the firearm the School Resource Officer (SRO) carries is loaded. Chief Cunningham replied yes but it is in a stage two holster so that the weapon cannot be grabbed easily. Senator Forrester also asked whether there have been any lawsuits against SRO for using excessive force. The Chief replied there have been. Senator Forrester then stated his concern about tasers and possibly causing death from heart arrhythmia.
- Chairman Nye then recognized Senator Purcell who asked how the taser is used, how close do you get to the person and does the person fall over after being tased. The Chief explained the use of a taser: as follows:
 - The victim is told the taser will be used.
 - Officers communicate the entire time about what is happening.
 - There is a safety device, an activation lever, that releases a laser
 - The taser pointer has two probes connected to two thin wires
 - When the trigger is pulled, the probes are discharged by air
 - Both probes must hit the individual.
 - The probes have a 21 foot distance.
 - It activates for 5 seconds and can reactivate by a trigger
 - It works best on an area of the body that has muscle mass
 - The person will fall if standing up.
 - In most instances, the individual will comply
- Chairman Nye recognized Senator Apodaca who asked the Chief if there has been an incidence of a taser being used on a suspect who is autistic. The Chief said not that he was aware of and even manufacturers might not have that type of information.
- Representative England was recognized by Chairman Nye and asked the Chief if he was aware of any kind of different reaction with persons who have a different nervous system when tasers are used. The Chief responded he was not aware of any and he referred to a study on taser related issues done by Dr. Jeffrey Ho at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. The Chief is not aware of any study done specifically on autism.
- Betsy Thompson was recognized by Chairman Nye. She asked if there are any guidelines against using tasers on young children. The Chief responded that some polices do and some don't state restrictions on using tasers on certain individuals. He emphasized that most policies require the officer to make a decision based on the totality of the circumstances.